

To the Right Honorable,

# The COMMONS in PARLIAMENT assembled:

*The Humble Petition of the Native Merchants of England;*

SHEWETH,

**T**HAT the most, and most considerable Aliens trading as Merchants within this Realm, procured themselves pretendedly Naturalized by the usurping Power in the year 1657. whereby during thole Powers they had equal Priviledges with Natives, to the ruine of divers Natives, and to the great Los and Discouragement of your Petitioners, and now endeavour to get themselves and others confirmed in those Priviledges, pretending,

I. *That by long consuetude and good affection to this Nation, they obtained Naturalization.*

II. *That they have irrecoverably lost their Priviledges in their own Countreys.*

III. *That they will bring in Commodities cheaper than your Petitioners.*

IV. *That English men are as free in Holland, as Natives.*

To all which your Petitioners humbly and truly Answer:

To the first, That most of the said Aliens are young men, and so can plead no consuetude; nor have they shewed their affection to this Nation, most of them refusing to advance Moneys upon the late Occasion for His Majesties Service: but the reason of their Naturalizing, was to undo your Petitioners who refused to comply with those Usurping Powers.

To the second, The said Aliens neither have, nor can loose their Priviledges in their own Countreys, as was plainly demonstrated to the Honorable Committee, but by this means are more servicable unto those Countreys, better respected, and more employed. Our prudent Neighbors have helped by force to take our Shipping, and beat us out of our Trade under other Commissions: And now there is some hope of peace, they send one from a Town to be Naturalized amongst us, to be equal in Priviledges, present in Councils, free of all Companies, that so they may cheat us out of that, which they now have no hope to beat us out of.

To the third, It was never known that Aliens made plenty and cheapnes of commodities by their Importations, nor can it be imagined that English Merchants, being many thousands, did, or ever will agree to enhance the prices. These Aliens, if naturalized, may indeed afford their commodities cheaper than your Petitioners, and enrich themselves, because by themselves and Aliances they will be free Burgers, both where they buy and where they sell, and at some times may under-sell your Petitioners, on purpose to beat us out of any profitable Trade; but when that's effected, they always advance their Prices, and are the most usual Ingrossers and Enhancers of Prices for all necessary commodities.

To the fourth, English men are no where admitted unto equal Priviledges with Natives in forein countreys, but only in some places where the Natives drive no trade themselves. In *Holland* our woollen Manufacture, the principal commodity we trade with, is so loaden with Excize, that we had better pay a treble Custom than such an Excize: Indeed all Nations are freely admitted in *Holland*, and the reason of this free Admission, is from the Countrey it self, and the vast difference between *Holland* and *England*. A man will admit any stranger to build upon a Bog, or other his waste Lands without expectation of Rent for a time, but not so upon his profitable Meadows.

*Honored Patriots, The Naturalizing these Aliens will transplant our Trade from Natives to Foreigners, plainly demonstrated to the Honorable Committee, one of them will free forty other Aliens; hereby your Petitioners the Natives, now ready and Willing to trade, will be much discurraged, His Majesties ancient Revenue diminished, 10000 l. per annum at least, as is certified by His Majesties Customers, Trade now increased, as hath been experienced during these Aliens three years priviledges. The Natives have Stock sufficient to drive the whole Trade, as is confessed by the said Aliens. The said Aliens paid but 10 l. per man for that Priviledge, and have gained above 20000 l. clear thereby; And therefore for preservation of the English mans Trade, please, that in case they be Naturalized, it may be Enacted,*

That every person and persons Naturalized by this Act, whose Parents were Aliens, and who shall trade as Merchants, shall hereafter pay all manner of Customs and Duties for their Merchandise, as Aliens made Denizens by His Majesties Letters Patents do, or ought to pay, according to the Laws of this Realm.